

## ABSTRACT

A rotary encoder having a slider provided with a plurality of movable contact points disposed along a circle of a certain radius at an angular interval six times as large as an output pitch of rectangular wave signal. The contact-point board is 5 provided on the surface with a signal pattern and a common pattern. Signal pattern consists of three fixed contact points, each having two conductive layers of radial shape of the same width, disposed at an angular pitch which is three times as large as the output pitch of rectangular wave signal. These fixed contact points are disposed along sliding circle of the movable contact points, at an angular pitch which is smaller, or 10 larger, than angular interval of movable contact points, or a multiple of it, by the output pitch of rectangular wave signal, or twice that. Common pattern is disposed insulated from the signal pattern. Overall size of the rotary encoder is small in the outer diameter, and the encoder generates three-phase rectangular wave signal.